

**The Involvement of Forest Lawn Permanent Residents with the Formation
and Activities of Institutions and Organizations in Buffalo, New York
During the Period 1836-1875**

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2024

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Dates to the establishment of the Young Men's Association in 1836. The beginning of continuous public library service dates to the founding of the Young Men's Association.

"History of the B&ECPL" <https://www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/history-becpl>

The Celebration of the Quarter-Century Anniversary of the Organization of the Young Men's Association of the City of Buffalo, held at St. James Hall, March 22d, 1861 (1861).

Arthur Goldberg. *The Buffalo Public Library: Commemorating the First Century of Service to the Citizens of Buffalo...1836-1936* (1937).

Kathryn H. Leacock. "Happy Anniversary: Celebrating 150 Years of Buffalo's Cultural Institutions." *Western New York Heritage* (Spring 2012).

Michigan Street Baptist Church, Buffalo Niagara Station Coalition, & the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor. As the center of the abolition movement in Buffalo, the Michigan Street Baptist Church is now the focal point of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor. The Buffalo Niagara Station Coalition, a nonprofit, was formed to "promote the heritage of the Michigan Street Baptist Church, Buffalo's oldest African American church."

The Michigan Street Baptist Church dates to "1836 when a group of African American men met in a brick schoolhouse on South Division Street to incorporate themselves as the Second Baptist Church of Buffalo." In 1845, church trustees purchased land on Michigan Street to build the current church. Peyton Harris, who is at Forest Lawn, was largely responsible for financing the construction of the church.

At Forest Lawn are other early officers, trustees, and members of the Michigan Street Baptist Church: William Qualls, Benjamin Young, William and Mary Storum, Benjamin Fleming Young, Emeline Coy, Sarah Coy, John S. Gramby, Edwin J. Lewis, James A. Henry, Alexander Brockenborough, and Robert Talbert, future father-in-law of Mary B. Talbert. Also at Forest Lawn is James Walker, an early church sexton.

Historic Structure Report for the Michigan Street Baptist Church App. H2: Membership Affiliations Through 1870 (2013).

Monroe Fordham. "Origins of the Michigan Street Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York" (1997).

<https://www.michiganstreetbuffalo.org/>

<https://www.michiganstreetbaptistchurch.org/history>

<https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/businesses/michigan-street-baptist-church/>

<https://www.cfgb.org/community-change/initiatives/freedom-station-coalition/>

Buffalo Public Schools. Dates to the appointment of a Superintendent of Common Schools in late 1837 and the enrollment of the first students in the fall of 1838.

“Oliver Gray Steele, almost single-handedly, was responsible for starting the Buffalo school system...for many years he was known as the “Father of the Buffalo Public Schools.” Steele was named the first Superintendent of Buffalo Public Schools.

G. Morton Weed. *School Days of Yesterday: Buffalo Public School History* (2001).

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. Founded in 1846 as the University of Buffalo, a medical school.

Fifteen Buffalo citizens petitioned the New York State Legislature for a charter for the university in 1846, and all but two are at Forest Lawn. The list includes Albert H. Tracy, Nathan K. Hall, George W. Clinton, and Millard Fillmore.

The original officers of the university who are Forest Lawn: Millard Fillmore, Chancellor; Ira A. Blossom, President of the University Council; Joseph G. Masten, Vice President; and Gaius B. Rich, Treasurer.

The university’s first six chancellors—Millard Fillmore, Orsamus H. Marshall, Carlton Sprague, James O. Putnam, Warren Bissell, and Charles P. Norton—are at Forest Lawn along with Clifford C. Furnas, the last chancellor of the private institution and the first president after the merger into the State University of New York.

John Edens. [resource document] “University at Buffalo College of Arts & Sciences – Forest Lawn Event” (2011).

Founding and early faculty who are at Forest Lawn include George Hadley, James Platt White, and Thomas Rochester.

Ronald Elmer Batt, et al. *Another Era: A Pictorial History of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences* (1996).

FOREST LAWN ESTABLISHED, 1849

Buffalo Seminary. Founded in 1851 as the Buffalo Female Academy. Name changed to Buffalo Seminary in 1889 during the tenure of Lucy Hartt who is in Forest Lawn. Also at Forest Lawn is Albert T. Chester who headed the school from 1860 until 1887. Orsamus Marshall, who is at Forest Lawn, was among those who met in 1851 for the purpose of exploring the possibility of establishing a female academy. Marshall would later serve as president of the school’s board of trustees.

Thirteen of the original fifteen trustees, including Charles E. Clarke, are at Forest Lawn. One of the three members of the first graduating class—Jennie E. Curtis—is at Forest Lawn.

Broadside, “The Academic Year of 1851-52, The Buffalo Female Academy.”

Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau. Dates to the founding of the [Buffalo] Board of Trade in 1845. Russell H. Heywood, founder and first president, is at Forest Lawn. Board of Trade, 1845-1881; Buffalo's Merchant Exchange, Inc., 1882-1903; Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, 1904 until name changed to Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, later Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

The long list of presidents of the Board of Trade after Russell H. Heywood included George B. Walbridge Silas Henry Fish, Hiram Niles, George S. Hazard, Merwin S. Hawley, and Albert Sherwood. All are at Forest Lawn.

Lloyd Graham and Frank H. Severance. *The First Hundred Years of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce*. (1945)

YMCA Buffalo Niagara. Founded in 1852 as the Young Men's Christian Association of Buffalo, the nation's second chapter of the YMCA. Four of the founders of the Buffalo chapter--Jesse Clement, Isaac C. Tryon, Cyrus K. Remington, and P. J. Ferris are at Forest Lawn. Tryon served as the first president. Pascal P. Pratt was the first president and the largest contributor to the construction of the new YMCA building. There were 45 charter members, most of which are at Forest Lawn.

Frank E. Sickels. *Fifty Years of the Young Men's Christian Association of Buffalo: A History* (1902).

Memorial and Family History of Erie County, New York, vol. 1 (1906).

University Archives, University at Buffalo. "YMCA Buffalo Niagara records"
<https://findingaids.lib.buffalo.edu/repositories/2/resources/524>

Buffalo General Hospital. Founded in 1855, with Charles E. Clarke as a founder and the first president of the Board of Trustees. On November 21, 1855, six civic leaders and eleven doctors met for the purpose of establishing a general hospital. All six civic leaders--Charles E. Clarke, George S. Hazard, Andrew J. Rich, Bronson C. Rumsey, William T. Wardwell, and Roswell Burrows—are at Forest Lawn, and nine of the eleven physicians--Phineas H. Strong, Charles H. Wilcox, Thomas F. Rochester, Sanford B. Hunt, William Gould, James M. Newman, Charles C. F. Gay, James Samo, and Charles H. Baker—are at Forest Lawn.

Evelyn Hawes. *Proud Vision: The History of the Buffalo General Hospital, The First Hundred Years* (1964).

Buffalo Science Museum. Founded in 1861 as the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. The society's origin can be traced in part to the establishment of Buffalo Natural History Society by a group of boys in 1858. Included in the group were Henry S. Sprague and Orsamus Warren who are at Forest Lawn. The society was disbanded the following year.

In 1861, a group of men met for the purpose of organizing a natural history society. Included in the group were John Marshall and Charles Farnham, who are at Forest Lawn.

George W. Clinton, who is at Forest Lawn, served as the first president. The other original officers included David Gray, Albert T. Chester, and Richard K. Noye, all of whom are at Forest Lawn.

Seventy-Five Years: A History of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, 1861-1936 (1938).

Kathryn H. Leacock. "Happy Anniversary: Celebrating 150 Years of Buffalo's Cultural Institutions." *Western New York Heritage* (Spring 2012).

Buffalo AKG Museum. Founded in 1862 as the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy. Organized under the leadership of Thomas LeClear, Josiah Humphrey, and Henry W. Rogers, who also served as the academy's first president, with the Rogers the only one at Forest Lawn. Presidents serving for the next fifteen years—George S. Hazard, Sherman S. Jewett, Ebenezer P. Dorr, Calvin S. F. Thomas, William P. Letchworth, and Lars G. Sellstedt—are at Forest Lawn.

J. Benjamin Townsend and Ruth M. Peyton. *100: The Buffalo Fine Arts Academy (1962).*

Kathryn H. Leacock. "Happy Anniversary: Celebrating 150 Years of Buffalo's Cultural Institutions." *Western New York Heritage* (Spring 2012).

Buffalo History Museum. Founded in 1862 as the Buffalo Historical Society by a group of community leaders headed by Lewis F. Allen and Orsamus H. Marshall. Others included George R. Babcock, Henry W. Rogers, William Dorsheimer, John C. Lord, and Walter Clark. With the exception of Clark, all are at Forest Lawn.

Millard Fillmore served as the first president of the Buffalo Historical Society, and every president for at least the next twenty-five years is at Forest Lawn.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Buffalo Historical Society (1937).

Kathryn H. Leacock. "Happy Anniversary: Celebrating 150 Years of Buffalo's Cultural Institutions." *Western New York Heritage* (Spring 2012).

BUFFALO CITY CEMETERY ESTABLISHED, 1864

SPCA Serving Erie County. Buffalo's branch of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in 1867, the nation's second branch. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed in New York City in early 1866, and later that year the secretary of the organization wrote to Millard Fillmore encouraging the establishment of a branch in Buffalo. Fillmore enlisted the help of Mary Johnson Lord (at Forest Lawn) in establishing the Buffalo branch.

Others at Forest Lawn—Mary Lord's husband John, Mary Norton Granger (wife of Warren Granger), and Silas Kingsley--were among the founders with Kingsley serving as the branch's first president.

<https://yoursPCA.org/news/spca153anniversary/>

Patrick Kavanagh. [script for SPCA tour] (2017); Matthew Golebiewski. "The Forest Lawn Connection," an exhibit at the MLWARC for the 150th anniversary of the SPCA (2017).

Buffalo Club. Founded in 1867. The twenty-seven men who signed the certificate of incorporation are considered the founders of the Buffalo Club with twenty-two being in Forest Lawn: Henry L. Lansing, Oliver G. Steele, Jr., Arthur W. Pease, Bronson C. Rumsey, Henry C. Winslow, Griffin Stedman Williams, Samuel K. Worthington, Harmon S. Cutting, George H. Chase, Charles Miller Lansing, Stephen C. Clarke, Delavan F. Clark, Albert A. Gillet, Albert H. Tracy, Myron P. Bush, John W. Bush, Issac A. Verplanck, William Dorsheimer, John W. Hutchinson, Sherman S. Jewett, John T. Hudson, and Millard Fillmore who would become the club's first president.

William G. Fargo, Sherman S. Jewett, Myron P. Bush, Rufus L. Howard, Thomas F. Rochester, and Abraham Altman served as presidents during the next few decades, and all at Forest Lawn.

Albert H. Laub. *The Buffalo Club, 1867-1967*. (1966).

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. This organization could be considered a surrogate successor to the Buffalo Board of Park Commissioners established in 1869.

William Dorsheimer escorted Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux on their first visit to Buffalo, a visit that included a stop in Forest Lawn. Millard Fillmore chaired the meeting held during a second visit when he appointed a group charged with furthering the concept of a Buffalo parks system. The group included William Dorsheimer, Sherman S. Jewett, Joseph Warren, Pascal Pratt, and Richard Flach, all of whom are at Forest Lawn with the exception of Richard Flach.

In 1869, outgoing mayor William F. Rogers appointed the first members of the Buffalo Board of Park Commissioners including the following who are at Forest Lawn: William Dorsheimer, Sherman S. Jewett, Dexter P. Rumsey, Joseph Warren, John Greiner, Dennis Bowen, Edwin T. Evans, Lewis P. Dayton, and Pascal Pratt.

In 1871, William McMillan, also at Forest Lawn, was named Superintendent of Planting and General Superintendent two years later.

Another Forest Lawn permanent resident, journalist David Gray, used his position with the *Buffalo Courier* to support the concept of a Buffalo parks system.

Francis R. Kowsky. *The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System* (2013).

<https://www.olmstedinbuffalo.com/>

YWCA Western New York. Founded in 1870 as the Women's Christian Association, becoming part of the Young Women's Christian Association in 1904. At Forest Lawn is Anna More (Mrs. Emmor Haines), the first president of the Women's Christian Association, and other early members: Mary Holloway, Hannah Clark Bryant, Ann Meldrum, Frances Larkin, and Esther McWilliams.

History of the Young Women's Christian Association (1926).

Patrick Kavanagh. [script YWCA tour] (2014)

Buffalo State, The State University of New York. Established in 1871 as Buffalo Normal School. Oliver G. Steele chaired the committee for the construction of the school's first building. At the groundbreaking ceremony held on April 15, 1869, Grosvenor Heacock and Albert T. Chester spoke and poem by Mary A. Ripley was held. All are at Forest Lawn.

<https://suny.buffalostate.edu/news/buffalo-normal-school-held-opening-ceremony-150-years-ago-today>

<https://suny.buffalostate.edu/news/pomp-pageantry-seize-day-1869-normal-school-cornerstone-laying>

Grosvenor Room at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Established as the Grosvenor Library in 1871, with a bequest from Seth Grosvenor in 1851. Seth Grosvenor is not in the family lot in Forest Lawn.

The three original trustees of the library were Orsamus H. Marshall, Joseph G. Masten, and George R. Babcock, all of whom are at Forest Lawn. Marshall served as a trustee until his death twenty-two years later. Other early trustees, also at Forest Lawn, were Millard Fillmore and David Gray.

"History of the B&ECPL" <https://www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/history-becpl>

Margaret Richmond Fess. *The Grosvenor Library and Its Times* (1956).

Jesse Ketchum Medal. Annual medals for academic excellence awarded by the Buffalo Public Schools since 1873. The original funding for the medal was donated by the heir to the Ketchum estate. Jesse Ketchum is in Forest Lawn.

Among the recipients of gold medals in the years 1873-1875, at the least the following are in Forest Lawn: William Frederick Strasmer (1873); Ada E. Winspear, later Mrs. George Urban, Jr. (1873); Lizzie Buell, later Mrs. William Barton Ferris and Mrs. Irving Browne (1874); Nellie Margaret Myers, who died the year after receiving the medal (1874); and Clara J. Winspear (1875).

Proceedings of the Common Council, City of Buffalo, 1873.

Proceedings of the Common Council, City of Buffalo, 1874.

Proceedings of the Common Council, City of Buffalo, 1875.

<https://buffalostreets.com/tag/jesse-ketchum-medal/>

Richardson Olmsted Campus. The history of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane dates to 1869. The building was designed in 1871, with construction beginning the following year and continuing to 1895. Credited for having the idea of a state mental asylum in Buffalo for proposing it to the state legislature in 1864 was Dr. James Platt White--who is at Forest Lawn--and from the institution's establishment was one of the "managers."

Memorial: James Platt White, 1811-1881 (1882).

<https://www.buffaloah.com/a/forest/400/index.html>

Buffalo Zoo. Founded in 1875 as the Buffalo Zoological Gardens. "The Zoo traces its history to 1870, when Jacob E. Bergtold, a prominent furrier, presented a pair of deer to the City of Buffalo. The deer were housed on a small piece of land in Delaware Park. Five years and a few animals later, the first permanent building was erected, signifying the establishment of the Buffalo Zoological Gardens in 1875." Jacob E. Bergtold is in Forest Lawn.

Elam R. Jewett, also at Forest Lawn, kept the deer at his estate, which was located at what is now the corner of Jewett Parkway and Parkside until the establishment of the zoo.

"A Zoo with a Long History" <https://buffalozoo.org/about/>

Douglas W. DeCroix. "The Buffalo Zoo." *Western New York Heritage* (Spring 2012).

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February 2024